



**United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia**

**Channing D. Phillips  
Acting United States Attorney**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Former Employee of D.C. Office of Chief Medical Examiner Sentenced to Jail for Stealing Money from Deceased Man**

**Washington, D.C.** - Cheree Jamison, 43, a former Medico-Legal Investigator/Physician Assistant at the District of Columbia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), was sentenced today by Judge Stephen F. Eilperin, in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, to 180 days of incarceration, with all but 30 days suspended, one year probation, and \$1,200 in restitution, in connection with Jamison's conviction on September 2, 2009, for Second Degree Theft for stealing \$1,200 from the body of a deceased man whose death was being investigated by OCME, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips. As a result of the incident, Jamison was terminated by OCME.

According to evidence presented at trial, Jamison first became aware that the decedent possessed a large sum of money while investigating his death on April 25, 2009, at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, D.C. As part of her official duties, Jamison performed the initial search of the decedent's body, including the decedent's pocket which contained his wallet. However, contrary to D.C. OCME procedure, Jamison did not turn that wallet over to the Metropolitan Police Department immediately on the death scene. Instead, the decedent was subsequently transported to the OCME, and on April 26, 2009, the OCME Medical Examiner and Pathologist Assistant preparing for the decedent's autopsy discovered the wallet and the \$2,911 contained therein.

Uncomfortable that such a large sum of money had not been turned over to MPD, the OCME employees counted and photographed the money, sealed it in a bio-hazard bag, and then placed the bag into the OCME safe. Later that afternoon, Jamison, who was aware the wallet and money were in the safe, entered the safe room, tore open the bio-hazard bag, and removed \$1,200. The following morning, an OCME employee went to retrieve the property from the safe to turn over to the decedent's family, and discovered that \$1,200 was missing from the bag. Review of surveillance video near the safe area showed that Jamison entered the safe room after the bag was placed in the safe, but before it was removed the following morning. After being confronted by investigators, Jamison admitted to taking hundreds of dollars from the bio-hazard bag in the safe.

In announcing the sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips expressed his appreciation to D.C. Government Special Police Officers Alfirio Presentado, Alberta Holden, and Garey Bostick. He also commended the work of Legal Assistant Tawanda Noble, Paralegal Zoe Antwi, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Lara Worm, who conducted the initial stage of the investigation, and Kathleen Connolly, who tried the case.

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